

16 June 2020

Dr Rima Makarem

Interim Vice Chair

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence 10 Spring Gardens

London SW1A 2BU

Dear Dr Makarem,

# Re: Final Appraisal Determination – Single technology appraisal (STA) Pembrolizumab for previously treated advanced or metastatic urothelial cancer (CDF review TA519) [ID1536]

With reference to your letter of 03 April 2020 regarding the negative NICE decision on the FAD for Pembrolizumab for treatment of bladder cancer patients.

Whilst noting your comments as follows: ‘I do fully understand and sympathise with the situation of patients suffering from bladder cancer, and how disappointed they must be in this FAD. Sadly we cannot fund all of the treatments we would like and difficult and painful decisions have to be made.’ – we would again make the strong comment however that patients suffering from bladder cancer do not currently have access to adequate treatment options, which in our view is a very strong argument to giving consideration to new treatments for a disease with a high mortality rate where there is already a serious lack of appropriate and effective treatments.

We would still appeal that you **urgently** reconsider your decision for the benefit of bladder cancer patients and repeat our initial arguments below:

* + We strongly believe the decision to not recommend the use of Pembrolizumab to be wrong.
  + The lack of treatments available for bladder cancer patients is, and has been for many years, a serious health inequality resulting in the exceptionally high mortality rate for patients.
  + Pembrolizumab is not replicated in any existing treatment available (see point above re comparison with Atezolizumab), it is a developing area of treatment and vital that wider use of these new treatments, and the related evidence generation, is not restricted.

We would like to accept your offer to observe the other appeal hearing in due course. Please advise date and connection details when available.

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

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